

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR

APPROVED BY:NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S:MR ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098026

NODIS

FOL RPT BEIRUT 3583 ACTION SECSTATE 22 APR QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3583

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY ON SECURITY SITUATION

1. JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY ABBAS KHALAF, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CONTROL COMMISSION UNDER PRIMIN RACHID KARAME TO SUPERVISE THE CEASEFIRE, INFORMED EMBOFF APRIL 21 THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. HE HAD JUST RETURN FROM MEETING, AT WHICH ALL FACTIONS WERE REPRESENTED INCLUDING SOMEONE FROM CHAMOUN'S PARTY. THE JOB WAS DIFFICULT AND THERE WERE STILL MANY VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT SECURITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN BEIRUT TO ALLOW FOR THE ELECTIONS. WHEN QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY, KHALAF SAID THE REJECTIONISTS WILL GO ALONG WITH THE CEASEFIRE.

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WM REGARDING SECURITY PROBLEMS FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS, KHALAF

THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED ONCE THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS A STRONG MAN AND HAD OVERWHELMING SUPPORT, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR SECURITY BY MEANS AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY.

3. IF THE SYRIANS ARE ANNOYED WITH US FOR WARNING AGAINST THE DANGER OF BRINGING TOO MANY SYRIAN TROOPS INTO LEBANON, JUMBLATT IS APPARENTLY ANNOYED WITH US FOR WHAT HE ALLEGES TO BE OUR COOPERATION WITH THE SYRIANS IN TOLERATING THE ENTRY INTO LEBANON OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SYRIAN FORCES.

4. REGARDING CURRENT FORCES IN LEBANON, KHALAF MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PLA WAU NOW FUNCTIONING UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF THE SYRIANS AND WAS QUITE SEPARATE FROM ARAFAT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, ARMISTICE, INTERVENTION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NATIONAL SECURITY, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE098026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760003-0416
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760432/aaaabbbx.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY ON SECURITY SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, SY, PLA, (KHALAF, ABBAS), (JUMBLATT, KAMAL)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006